



United States Department of Agriculture

# **Environmental Assessment Military Training Exercises within the Cibola National Forest**

## **Errata to Final Environmental Assessment**



**United States Air Force  
Air Education and Training Command  
377th Air Base Wing  
Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico  
November 2020**



# **Environmental Assessment Military Training Exercises within the Cibola National Forest**

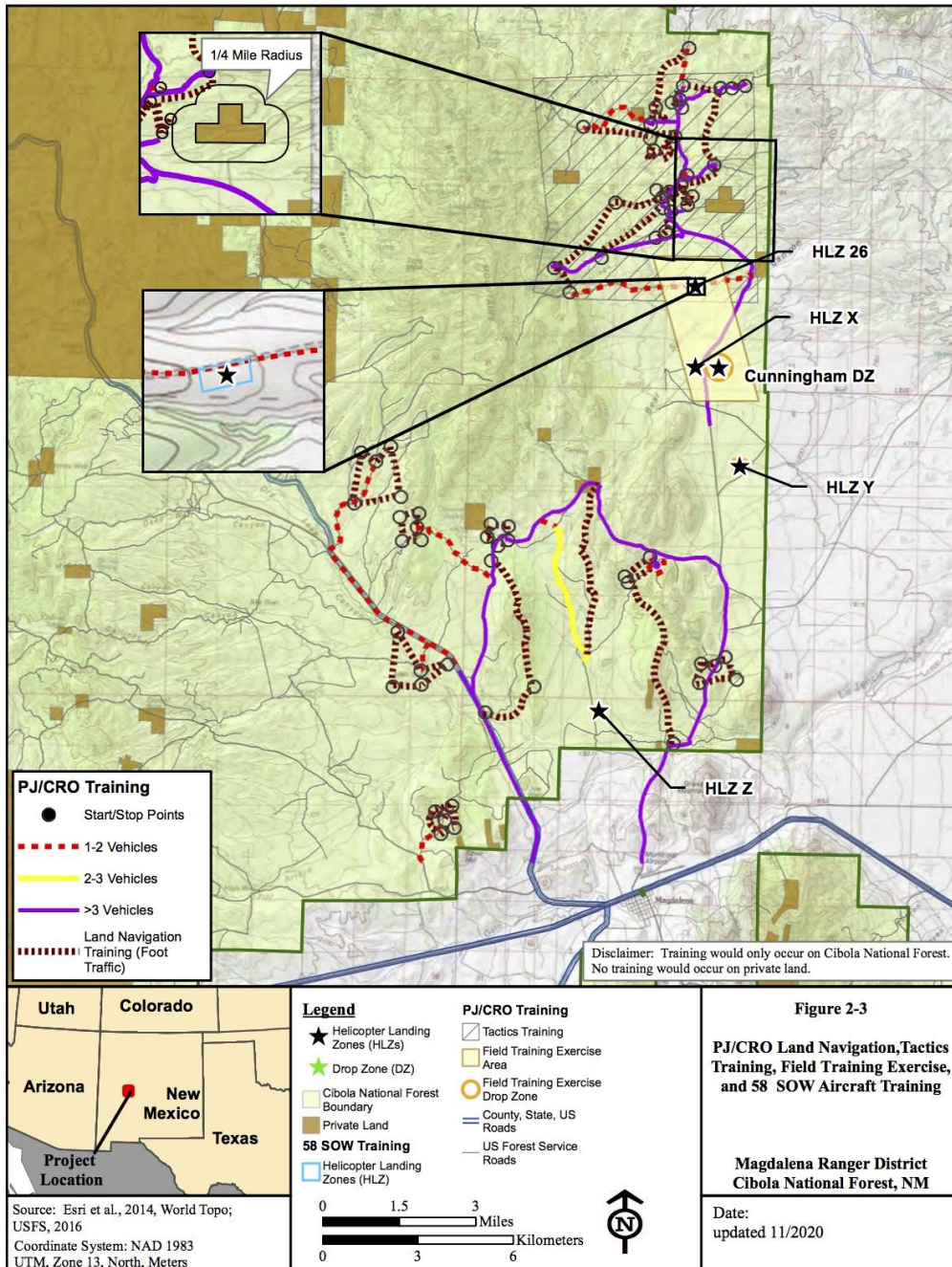
## **Errata Sheet**

**November 2020**

The Environmental Assessment Military Training Exercises within the Cibola National Forest was released in May 2020. This errata sheet documents corrections to the text of the published EA, and should be reviewed along with the final EA. These corrections reflect instruction provided by the Objection Reviewing Officer in letters in September 2020. These corrections are consistent with direction given in Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Chapter 10, Section 18. There are no changes to the project or significant new circumstances identified in this errata sheet that affect the analysis and conclusions in the Environmental Assessment Military Training Exercises within the Cibola National Forest.

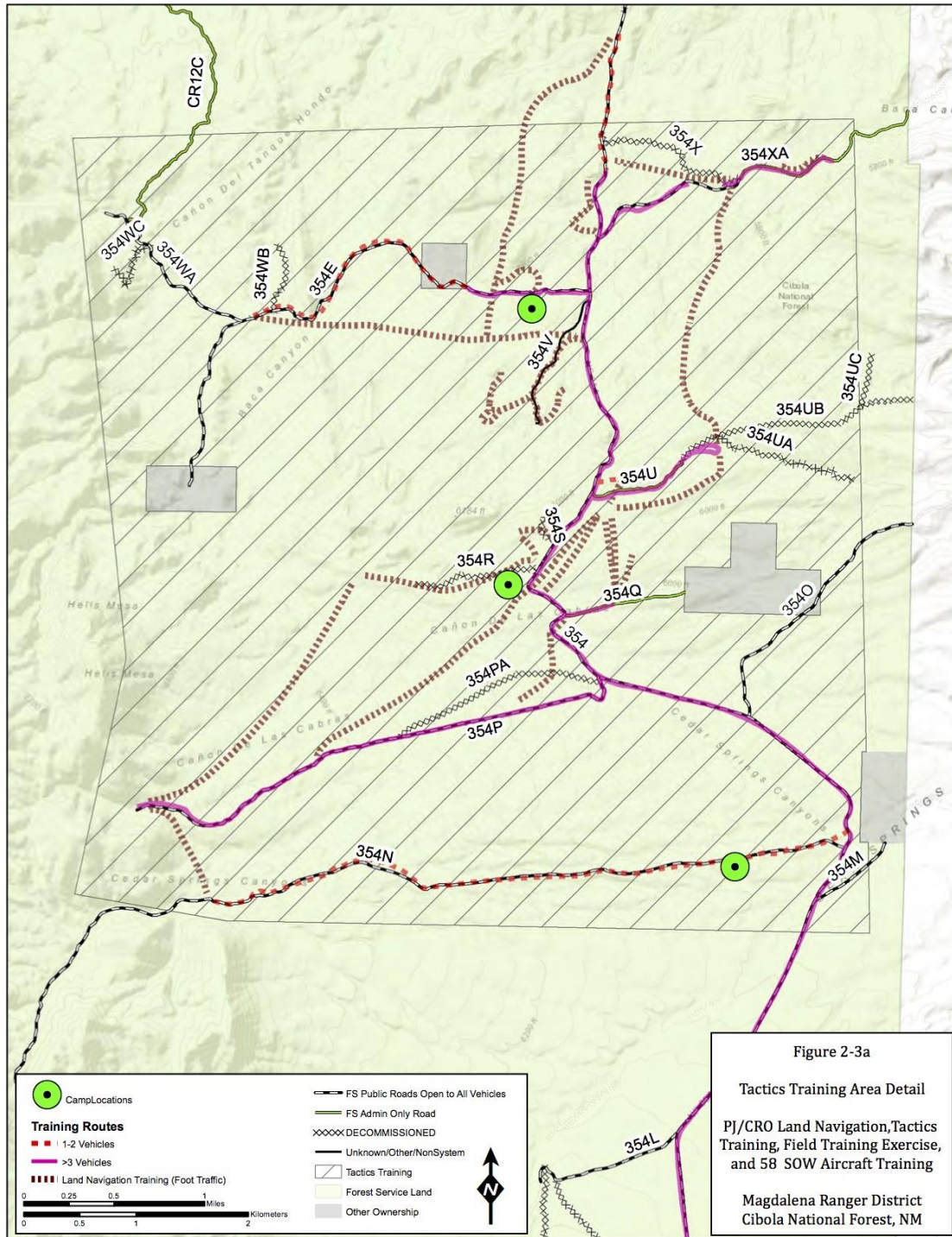
Language with a strikethrough is deleted from the EA while underlined language has been added. The revised sections are listed below in bold text.

Page 2-7, Figure 2-3 Proposed Action: PJ/CRO Land Navigation, Tactics Training, Field Training Exercise, and 58<sup>th</sup> SOW Aircraft Training, Magdalena Ranger District, Cibola National Forest, NM





Page 2-7, Figure 2-3a (new figure): PJ/CRO Land Navigation, Tactics Training, Field Training Exercise, and 58<sup>th</sup> SOW Aircraft Training, Magdalena Ranger District, Cibola National Forest, NM



## Page 2-8. Subsection Tactics – 3<sup>rd</sup> Paragraph

The new base camp area (South Base Camp Site) would be accessed from NFSR 354. ~~via an unnumbered road heading west.~~

## Page 2-6. Magdalena Ranger District – Land Navigation

“Vehicles would remain on Magdalena RD NFSRs 354, 354N, 354P, 354Q, 354U, 354E, 354XA, 506, **506B, 506J**, 506K, and 24 during the entire training exercise. Figure 2-3 shows the land navigation training area on the Magdalena RD. The classes would use the same base camp described below for the tactics training.”

## Page 2-28. Table 2-10. Summary of Environmental Impacts (continued.)

Resource	Proposed Action	Alternative 1	No-action Alternative
	Approve Permit for Increased Level of Military Training Exercises at Cibola NF (New sites)	Approve Permit for Continuation of Existing Level of Military Training Exercises at Cibola NF (No new sites)	
Cultural Resources	With incorporation of design criteria described in Chapter 2, the Proposed Action is not anticipated to have significant impacts on cultural resources.	<del>With incorporation of design criteria</del> Described in Chapter 2, Alternative 1 is not anticipated to have significant impacts on cultural resources. There would be no potential for impacts at the new sites. Impacts would be	No effect on historic or TCP.

## Page 3-10, Table 3.2.1-1. Baseline Conditions: 58 SOW Training in Magdalena Ranger District

HLZ/DZ/OPFOR and Aircraft Type	Average Training Days per Week/Year	Sorties per Average Training Day/Year	Total Events (Average Busy Day/Annual)	Daytime Events (Average Busy Day/Annual)	Environmental Nighttime Events (Average Busy Day/Annual)
<b>HLZ 26</b>					
CV-22	4/208	5/1,040	30/6,240	15/3,120	15/3,120
HH-60	6/312	8/1,716	<del>45</del> 46/10,296	23/5,148	23/5,148
UH-1N	2/104	3/208	18/1,248	9/624	9/624
Total	--	16/2,964	94/17,784	47/8,892	47/8,892
<b>Cunningham DZ</b>					
MC-130	0.19/10	1/10	3/30	1.5/15	1.5/15
<b>Grand Total</b>	--	17/2,974	97/17,814	48.5/ <del>48,907</del> 8,907	48.5/ <del>48,907</del> 8,907

Page 3-13. Table 3.2.1-2. Baseline Conditions: 58 SOW Training at HLZ 10, Mountainair Ranger District

Aircraft Type	Average Training Days per Week/Year	Sorties per Average Training Day/Year	Total Events (Average Busy Day/Annual)	Daytime Events (Average Busy Day/Annual)	Environmental Nighttime Events (Average Busy Day/Annual)
CV-22B	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
HH-60	6/312	8/1,716	46/10,296	23/5,148	23/5,148
MC-130	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
UH-1N	2/104	3/208	18/1,248	9/624	9/624
<b>Total</b>	--	11/1,924	64/11,544	32/5,772	32/5,772

Page 3-18, Table 3.2.2-2. Proposed Action: 58 SOW Training Activities in Magdalena RD- Proposed Action

HLZ/DZ/RD and Aircraft Type	Average Training Days per Week/Year	Sorties per Average Training Day/Year	Total Events (Average Busy Day/Annual)	Daytime Events (Average Busy Day/Annual)	Environmental Nighttime Events (Average Busy Day/Annual)
<b>Cunningham DZ (Magdalena RD)</b>					
CV-22B	1/52	1.25/260	7.5/1,560	3.75/780	3.75/780
HH-60	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
MC-130	0.19/10	1/10	3/30	1.5/15	1.5/15
UH-1N	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
<b>Total</b>	--	2.25/270	10.5/1,590	5.25/795	5.25/795
<b>HLZ 26 (Magdalena RD)</b>					
CV-22B	1/52	1.25/260	7.5/1,560	3.75/780	3.75/780
HH-60	6/312	8/1,716	46/10,296	23/5,148	23/5,148
MC-130	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
UH-1N	1/52	1/52	6/312	3/156	3/156
<b>Total</b>	--	10.25/2,082	59.5/12,168	29.75/6,084	29.75/6,084
<b>HLZ X (Magdalena RD)</b>					
CV-22B	2/104	2.5/520	15/3,120	7.5/1,560	7.5/1,560
HH-60	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
MC-130	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
UH-1N	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
<b>Total</b>	--	2.5/520	15/3,120	7.5/1,560	7.5/1,560
<b>HLZ Y (Magdalena RD)</b>					
CV-22B	2/104	2.5/520	15/3,120	7.5/1,560	7.5/1,560
HH-60	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
MC-130	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
UH-1N	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
<b>Total</b>	--	2.5/520	15/3,120	7.5/1,560	7.5/1,560
<b>HLZ Z (Magdalena RD)</b>					
CV-22B	2/104	2.5/520	15/3,120	7.5/1,560	7.5/1,560

HH-60	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
MC-130	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
UH-1N	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
<b>Total</b>	--	2.5/520	15/3,120	7.5/1560	7.5/1560
<b>Grand Totals</b>	--	20/3,858	115/23,118	57.5/11,559	57.5/11,559

**Notes:** Number of air events per sortie varies between 6 and 8, depending on the aircraft type and type or training.

DZ – drop zone

HLZ – helicopter landing zone

The number of events that would take place at Cunningham DZ would increase from 3 per average busy day to 10.5 and from 30 per average busy year to 1,590. The number of events that would take place at HLZ 26 would decrease from ~~46 94~~ per average busy day to ~~43 59.5~~ and from ~~2,964 17,784~~ per average busy year to ~~2,184 12,168~~. Each of the new HLZs would experience 2.5 air events per average busy day and 520 per average busy year

The total events in Magdalena RD will increase from 97 per average busy day to ~~424 115~~ and from ~~47,784 17,814~~ per average busy year to ~~24,024 23,118~~.

#### Page 3-22. Table 3.2.3-1. Alternative 1: 58 SOW Training in Magdalena Ranger District

HLZ/DZ/OPFOR and Aircraft Type	Average Training Days per Week/Year	Sorties per Average Training Day/Year	Total Events (Average Busy Day/Annual)	Daytime Events (Average Busy Day/Annual)	Environmental Nighttime Events (Average Busy Day/Annual)
<b>HLZ 26</b>					
CV-22B	4/208	5/1,040	30/6,240	15/3,120	15/3,120
HH-60	6/312	8/1,716	46/10,296	23/5,148	23/5,148
UH-1N	2/104	3/208	18/1,248	9/624	9/624
<b>Total</b>	--	16/2,964	94/17,784	47/8,892	47/8,892
<b>Cunningham DZ</b>					
MC-130	0.19/10	1/10	3/30	1.5/15	1.5/15
<b>Total</b>	--	17/2,974	97/17,814	48.5/ <del>48,907</del> 8,907	48.5/ <del>48,907</del> 8,907

#### Page 3-23. Table 3.2.3-2. Alternative 1: 58 SOW Training at HLZ 10, Mountainair Ranger District

Aircraft Type	Average Training Days per Week/Year	Sorties per Average Training Day/Year	Total Events (Average Busy Day/Annual)	Daytime Events (Average Busy Day/Annual)	Environmental Nighttime Events (Average Busy Day/Annual)
CV-22B	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
HH-60	6/312	8/1,716	46/10,296	23/5,148	23/5,148
MC-130	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
UH-1N	2/104	3/208	18/1,248	9/624	9/624
<b>Total</b>	--	11/1,924	64/ <del>11,544</del> 11,544	32/5,772	32/5,772

**Notes:** Number of air events per sortie varies between 6 and 8, depending on the aircraft type and type or training.

DZ – drop zone HLZ – helicopter landing zone

Page 3-36. Table 3.3.2-2. Proposed Action: Magdalena Ranger District  
HLZ and DZ Operations

	Proposed Action (HLZ 26)		Proposed Action (HLZ X, Y, Z)		Proposed Action (Cunningham DZ)	
Sorties per day	11		3		3	
Training days per year	312		104		52	
Annual sorties	12,168		3,120		1,590	
Landings per sortie <sup>(1)</sup>	8		8		8	
Estimated landings per year <sup>(2)</sup>	Daytime	Nighttime	Daytime	Nighttime	Daytime	Nighttime
	6,084	6,084	1,560	1,560	<del>705</del> 795	<del>705</del> 795

**Notes:**

- (1) Landings per sorties assumes up to one landing every 15 mins
- (2) Operations evenly split between acoustic daytime (0700-2200) and acoustic nighttime (2200-0700)

Page A-51. Response to Comments- Noise

Noise-NS			
Response Number	Commenter Number	Comment Description	Response
NS-6	C-1, C-57, C-84, C-105, O-1, O-3, O-7, O-13, O-14	Have the long-term effects of such high levels of noise on wildlife and cattle been measured? ...an analysis of aggregate noise pollution effects on wildlife must be conducted. USAF and USFS did not take a hard look at the direct...impacts from chronic noise exposure on terrestrial wildlife. ...The USAF and USFS's conclusion that elk will habituate to the noise from low flying helicopters is arbitrary and capricious.	Appendix <del>C</del> D, section C.1.2.3 provides a summary of noise effects on animals such as livestock and wildlife. This information is based on long-term studies accepted by the scientific community.